DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 398 133 SO 026 621

AUTHOR Spicola, Lisa A.
TITLE Selected Genealogical Reference Sources for Introductory Research.
PUB DATE May 96
NOTE 10p.
PUB TYPE Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Annotated Bibliographies; Family (Sociological Unit); *Family History; *Genealogy; *Information Sources; Libraries; Library Collections

ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography focuses on reference materials that provide an introduction to useful print and electronic sources for the beginning genealogical researcher. With little exception, these publications were produced in the 1990s and are still in print. Types of print sources include: (1) Bibliographies (2 items); (2) Biography (1 item); (3) Dictionaries (2 items); (4) Directories (6 items); (5) Encyclopedia (1 item); (6) Guidebooks and Handbooks (18 items); and (7) Indexes (3 items). The bibliography also contains an Internet section that lists leading web sites and listservs in the area of genealogy. (EH)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED 398 133

SELECTED GENEALOGICAL REFERENCE SOURCES FOR INTRODUCTORY RESEARCH

LISA A. SPICOLA

SO 026 621

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

LISA A. SPICOLA

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Selected Genealogical Reference Sources for Introductory Research

Introduction

As the field of genealogy continuously grows in popularity, there are hundreds of useful print and electronic sources available for research. This bibliography focuses on reference material that provides an introduction to these tools for the beginning genealogical researcher. With little exception, these publications were produced in the 1990's and are still in print.

Many publications include some discussion of electronic sources since these have begun to play an ever-increasing role in genealogical research. Inclusion of these sources has been noted here in the annotations. This bibliography also includes an Internet section which lists leading websites and listservs in the area of genealogy.

Bibliographies

Clegg, Michael Barren, ed. *Bibliography of Genealogy and Local History Periodicals with Union List of Major U.S. Collections.* Fort Wayne, Ind.: Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1990.

Arranged alphabetically by title. Contains over 5400 entries providing publication information, frequency of periodical, ISSN number, and holdings information from eleven major institutions. Some of information is dated. Intended to be a companion volume to *PERiodical Source Index.* Subject index. 528p.

Genealogies Catalogued by the Library of Congress since 1986: With a List of Established Forms of Family Names and a List of Genealogies Converted to Microfiche Since 1983. Washington, D.C.: Cataloging Distribution Service, Library of Congress, 1992.

Supplements Marion J. Kaminkow's *Genealogies in the Library of Congress: A Bibliography* which is now out-of-print. Section one lists 8997 genealogies received and cataloged by the Library of Congress in 1986 through July 1991. Section two provides a list of surnames and variations to aid in the use of the first section. Older genealogies that have been copied to microfilm format since 1983 are listed in the last section. This is unfortunately arranged by call number. Overall, provides useful material, but can be frustrating to use due to inconsistent treatment of variant surname spellings and lack of a comprehensive surname index. 1349p.

Biography

Meyer, Mary Keysor and P. William Filby, ed. *Who's Who in Genealogy and Heraldry.* 2nd ed. Baltimore, Md.: Who's Who in Genealogy and Heraldry, 1990.

Includes those who have contributed to or have made a significant achievement in the fields of genealogy and heraldry. Each entry provides personal information, career background, genealogical publications, and general interests. This source also includes listing of accredited

and unaccredited agencies, notification of deaths of individuals who were listed in previous edition, and explanation of abbreviations used in entries. 331p.

Dictionaries

Drake, Paul. *What Did They Mean by That? A Dictionary of Historical Terms for Genealogists.* Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, Inc., 1994.

Brief definitions, without pronunciations, of legal, religious, colonial, medical, and foreign terms. Includes cross-references and variant spellings. Provides several foldout examples of sample documents and a listing of common abbreviations. 233p.

Harris, Maurine and Glen Harris, eds. *Ancestry's Concise Genealogical Dictionary.* Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 1989.

Brief definitions, without pronunciations, of terms found in original records. Latin terms and obsolete words marked as such. Includes some cross-references and variant spellings. Format is clearly organized. Not meant to be wholly comprehensive. 259p.

Directories

Allen, Desmond Walls. *Directory of Professional Genealogists.* Washington, D.C.: Association of Professional Genealogists, 1993.

Lists about 600 members. Entries include address and phone number, research specialties, and qualifications. Brief discussion of the work of a professional genealogist and information on genealogists' organizations. Includes indexes of names, geographic specialties, research specialties, related services, and member residential locations. 110p.

Bentley, Elizabeth Petty. *Directory of Family Associations.* 1993-94 ed. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1993.

Entries include name, address, and telephone number of contact person, descriptive data about the family, and names of newsletters, if any exist. Much cross-referencing to variant surname spellings and interrelated families. 336p.

Bentley, Elizabeth Petty. *The Genealogist's Address Book.* 2nd ed. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1992.

Considered a comprehensive yellow pages for genealogists. Includes directory information on national, state, and local genealogical institutions, ethnic/religious organizations, societies, and organizations providing products and services. Index. 500p.

Filby, P. William, ed. *Directory of American Libraries with Genealogy or Local History Collections.* Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 1988.

Arranged alphabetically by state and province. Information compiled from over 1500 libraries. Each entry includes approximate number of resources, subject specialties, library procedures and policies, and expertise of staff. Includes useful listing of libraries with significant out-of-state collections. 319p.

Johnson, Keith A. and Malcolm R. Sainty, eds. *Genealogical Research Directory.* Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 1995.

Alphabetical listing of surnames that are currently being researched throughout the world. Provides information on time period and place that is being studied and the name and address of the researcher. Contains over 100,000 entries. 960p.

Meyer, Mary Keysor, ed. *Meyer's Directory of Genealogical Societies in the U.S.A. and Canada.* 8th ed. Mt. Airy, Md.: Mary Keysor Meyer, 1990.

Includes information on general societies in Canada and the United States, special interest organizations, and individual family groups. Some entries provide additional information besides address and telephone number. Also included is an alphabetical listing of over 150 independent genealogical periodicals along with directory information and some descriptions. Endorsed by the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society. 131p.

Encyclopedia

Robb, H. Amanda and Andrew Chesler. *Encyclopedia of American Family Names.* New York: Harper-Collins Publishers, 1995.

Coverage of 5000 of the most common surnames in the United States, as reported by the federal government, and inclusion of about 5000 derivations from these names. Entries include root and derivative names, Social Security count of the number of individuals with particular surname, origin of name, famous bearers of name, and published genealogies as recorded in the Library of Congress' card catalog of genealogical titles. Bibliography. 710p.

Guidebooks and Handbooks

Bentley, Elizabeth Petty. *County Courthouse Book.* 2nd ed. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1995.

Covers 3125 county courthouses and 1577 New England towns and independent Virginia cities. All entries contain address and telephone number information. Just over half include a concise summary of record holdings, personnel, and services. Emphasis on accessing probate, land, naturalization, and vital records. Arranged alphabetically by state and contains small yellow page section of products and services. 397p.

Burgess, Michael, Mary A. Burgess, and Daryl F. Mallett. *The State and Province Vital Records Guide.* Borgo Reference Guide Series. San Bernardino, Calif.: Borgo Press, 1993.

Provides information on where to locate birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates in the United States, including territories, and Canada. Fees, restrictions, and years of coverage are included. Information found in this source was verified by telephone in early 1993. 96p.

Clifford, Karen. *Genealogy and Computers for the Determined Researcher.* Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1993.

Covers research techniques for using census, tax, military, immigration, and emigration records and searching periodicals. Print publications as well as electronic sources are discussed. Contains section on using computers and creating databases. Includes tutorials for using the *Personal Ancestry File (PAF)*, genealogical software developed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Bibliographic references and index. 294p.

Colletta, John Philip. *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record.* 2nd ed. Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 1993.

Provides information on locating indexes to hundreds of passenger lists from all major Atlantic ports as well as some Gulf and Pacific ones. Discussion of how lists were created and indexed. Source is arranged mostly by name of ship. Bibliography includes many specialized sources. Index. 93p.

Croom, Emily Anne. *The Genealogist's Companion Sourcebook.* Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 1994.

Companion guide to Croom's *Unpuzzling Your Past.* More in-depth discussion of sources, including censuses, public records, and local sources. Lacks any discussion of electronic sources. Includes chapters on African-American and Native American genealogies. Appendices include discussion of calendar dates, listing of library call numbers, publisher information, and directory listings of libraries and archives. Provides practical information for both the beginner and intermediate researcher. Bibliographic references and index. 227p.

Croom, Emily Anne. *Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy.* 3rd ed. Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 1995.

Emphasis on interviewing and gathering information from within the family. Provides an introduction to outside resources such as land, military, and vital records. Includes discussion on handwriting, sample forms, a brief glossary and a directory of American, Canadian, and British libraries and archives. Bibliographic references and index. 176p.

Crowe, Elizabeth Powell. *Genealogy Online: Researching Your Roots.* New York: Windcrest/ McGraw-Hill, 1995.

Step-by-step discussion of software, databases, online services, and electronic bulletin boards. Disk included which includes genealogical shareware program *Brother's Keeper version 5.2*, listing of online libraries, and additional resources. 280p.

Drake, Paul. *In Search of Family History: A Starting Place.* Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, Inc., 1992.

Conversational-style text. Provides useful guidance for interviewing and deciphering old public records. Includes sample forms, listing of genealogical societies, periodicals, and directories, glossary, and index. No coverage of computer resources except to briefly note that word processors are time savers. 143p.

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Redbook: State, County, and Town Sources.* Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 1991.

Provides wealth of information on genealogical sources within each state. Included for each state is a brief historical overview, information about census, land, probate, court, cemetery,

military, and vital records, details of relevant publications, libraries, and societies, and a local map. Includes information about contributing authors, bibliographic references, and index. 758p.

Everton, George B. *The Handy Book for Genealogists: United States of America.* 8th ed. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers Inc., 1991.

Provides both an overview of genealogical research within the United States and discussion of general resources within each state. Each state section includes information on local history, libraries, societies, bibliographic references, and maps of migration trails, with a focus on county records. Index. 382p.

Greenwood, Val D. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy.* 2nd ed. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1990.

Has been hailed as one of the classic handbooks in the area of American genealogy. Provides comprehensive information on locating and evaluating records, such as court, cemetery, and census records. Though this edition includes a new chapter on electronic sources, its coverage of this area is still very limited. 623 p.

Hamilton, Ann B. *Researcher's Guide to U.S. Census Availability, 1789-1920.* 2nd ed. Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, Inc., 1992.

Provides detailed information on not only federal census, but also includes state, territorial, and county data. Presented in a chart format for quick reference. 165p.

Kemp, Thomas Jay. *International Vital Records Handbook.* Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1994.

Provides basic vital record request information for over 200 countries in the world. Part one of this source includes information and request forms for all the states in the United States. Part two covers other countries. Every entry contains at least an address and phone number for the government agency responsible for vital record collection. Fees, in local currency, are included where applicable. 417p.

Lainhart, Ann S. *State Census Records.* Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1992.

Provides information on what data is available in forty-four state, and prestatehood territory, censuses and where it can be located. Included are references to published sources of this data and any research assistance that is available from state and local agencies. 116p.

Neagles, James C. *U.S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources, Colonial America to the Present.* Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 1994.

Comprehensive guide to locating and utilizing military records and military-related records, such as pension documents and censuses of veterans. Detailed discussions and information on records from the National Archives, research centers, and state resources. Appendix includes a brief overview of America's military conflicts. Bibliographic references and index of names, places, and subjects. 441p.

Przecha, Donna and Joan Lowrey. *Guide to Genealogy Software*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1993.

Introductory chapter provides basic information on computers and software. Over 100 software packages that are designed to organize and access genealogical data are discussed and evaluated. Information on each includes producer, required hardware, documentation, support, and data-management capability. Illustrations of sample printouts included. Consistent format of entries allows for easy comparison. Index. 195p.

Where to Write For Vital Records. Hyattsville, Md.: Dept. of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, 1990.

Federal government publication. Covers similar U.S. information as *The State and Province Vital Records Guide*, though not as up-to-date. Sold for only about $2.00 through the Government Printing Office. Can also be downloaded from the Internet website of the U.S. Center for Disease Control at http://ftp.cdc.gov/hchswww/w2w-all.htm. This file was most recently updated in November 1995.

Wright, Raymond S. III. *The Genealogist's Handbook: Modern Methods for Researching Family History*. Chicago: American Library Association, 1995.

Comprehensive introductory source. Includes chapter on computer sources. Directory information on research centers throughout the country. Sample illustrations of selected sources. Bibliography and index. Information presented in a clear manner. 190p.

Indexes

Filby, P. William and Mary K. Meyer, eds. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*. Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1981- .

Initial three-volume publication covers about 500,000 passengers who immigrated to the U.S. and Canada in the 17th-19th centuries. Supplements produced annually with cumulation of supplements every four years. All entries arranged alphabetically by individual passenger name and include age, place and year of arrival, and source name with corresponding page number. Main entries consist of main passenger name along with the names of persons who accompanied him. Cross-reference entries of all other passengers refer back to main entry. Includes information on the more than 300 sources that are indexed.

Genealogical and Periodical Annual Index. Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1962-1969, 1974- .

Seen as a genealogical equivalent to Reader's Guide. Coverage of over 270 periodicals. Categorizes surnames, geographic locations, and topics.

PERiodical Source Index. Fort Wayne, Ind.: Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1986- .

Extensive coverage of secondary sources. Covers all of the genealogical and local history journals that have been received by the Allen County Public Library, a library which contains one of the largest genealogical collections in the country. A retrospective sixteen-volume set provides coverage of over 2000 publications dating between 1847 and 1985. Annual indexes began in 1986.

Internet Sources (Listservs)

GENCMP-L [online]. Available e-mail: listserv@mail.eworld.com.

Discussion of doing genealogical research through the use of electronic resources. List managed by Brian Leverich (leverich@rootsweb.com). To subscribe, send following message, leaving subject line blank, to above e-mail address:

SUB GENCMP-L <your first name> <your last name>

GENMTD-L [online]. Available e-mail: listserv@mail.eworld.com.

Discussion of non-electronic methods of genealogical research. List moderated by Brian Leverich (leverich@rootsweb.com) and Alicia Towster (act@usl.edu). To subscribe, send following message, leaving subject line blank, to above e-mail address:

SUB GENMTD-L <your first name> <your last name>

ROOTS-L [online]. Available e-mail: listserv@vm1.nodak.edu.

With over 600 subscribers, this is the most popular genealogical listserv. In addition to having discussions on a wide range of genealogical topics, this includes a large library of text files and a message archive. To subscribe, send following message, leaving subject line blank, to above e-mail address:

SUB ROOTS-L <your first name> <your last name>

Internet Sources (Websites)

Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet
Http://www.oz.net/~cyndihow/sites.htm

By far, one of the most comprehensive genealogical sources on the Internet. Reports that it provides more than 2200 links to other sites. This index is arranged by categories, for example country names, ethnic groups, types of genealogical information. Maintained and created by Cyndi Howells (cyndihow@oz.net).

Everton Genealogy Page
Http://www.everton.com

Sponsored by Everton Publishers, Inc., located in Logan, Utah. Provides links to research sources on the Internet and access to Everton's fee-based Online Search databases. Everton's databases include, for example, an 1880 U.S. Census sample, a Social Security Death Index, and an 1851 U.K. Census sample. Subscription information for this service is available at this site. Also provides catalog information of Everton publications.

Genealogy Online
Http://genealogy.org

Provided by Genealogy Online which is based in Capitola, Cal. Relies on contributions in order to maintain website. Comprehensive site which provides links to other websites, information on electronic bulletin boards, FTP sources, and other online sources, and nation-wide genealogical events calendar.

National Genealogical Society
Http://genealogy.org/NGS

Won GenSource's "Golden Web Award" for the first quarter of 1996 in recognition of its advancement of genealogy on the Internet. Provides comprehensive information on the organization, educational programs, publications, and services. Also includes links to other relevant websites and Internet resources and provides instructions on how to connect to various library catalogs throughout the country.

Lisa A. Spicola
5/6/96